

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LONDON 05491 081946Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 4928

S E C R E T LONDON 05491

NODIS.

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OGEN
SUBJECT: STATUS OF UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL SHEVCHENKO

REF: STATE 91016

1. IN ABSENCE FROM LONDON OF THE AMBASSADOR,
DCM MET WITH SYG WALDHEIM AT 7:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME,
APRIL 8, TO CONVEY POINTS PER REFTEL.
2. WALDHEIM EXPRESSED THANKS FOR PROMPT INFORMATION.
HE REPORTED MEYERHOFF HAD HEARD FROM SHEVCHENKO
BY PHONE THAT LATTER HAD SENT A LETTER TO TROYANOVSKY
ASKING HIM TO COMMUNICATE SHEVCHENKO'S INTENTION TO
BREZHNEV, TOGETHER WITH SHEVCHENKO'S RATIONALE THAT
STRONGLY CONDEMNED THE REPRESSIVE SOVIET REGIME. SYG
SAID ALSO THAT TROYANOVSKY HAD WRITTEN HIM SAYING SHEV-
CHENKO HAD DISAPPEARED AND ASKING SYG TO REQUEST U.S.
AUTHORITIES TO TRY TO FIND HIM AND TO INFORM THE SOVIETS
OF THE RESULTS OF THEIR ENDEAVORS.
3. ON SHEVCHENKO'S WHEREABOUTS, WALDHEIM SAID THAT
NEITHER HE OR HIS STAFF WERE INFORMED. SHEVCHENKO, SYG
SAID, REFUSED TO TELL MEYERHOFF WHERE HE WAS STAYING AND
TO RESPOND TO MRS. SHEVCHENKO'S PLEA THAT HE CALL, ON
THE GROUNDS THAT KGB OFFICIALS WERE AT SHEVCHENKO'S
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HOUSE. HOWEVER, SHEVCHENKO SAID HE WOULD STAY IN
TOUCH WITH MEYERHOFF.

4. WITH REGARD TO NEXT STEPS, SYG SAID THE SITUATION
WAS "VERY COMPLICATED" AND THAT HE ANTICIPATED SERIOUS
PROBLEMS. SHEVCHENKO, WHILE AN INTERNATIONAL CIVIL
SERVANT, IS ALSO THE HIGHEST RANKING SOVIET NATIONAL

IN THE UN SECRETARIAT, AND LIKE OTHER SENIOR OFFICIALS
WAS APPOINTED ONLY AFTER CLOSEST CONSULTATION.

WALDHEIM UNDERLINED THAT HE
IS SCRUPULOUSLY CAREFUL, AS THE U.S. KNEW IN THE CASE OF
BILL BUFFUM, TO CONSULT CAREFULLY BEFORE MAKING APPOINT-
MENTS. IN THE PRESENT CASE, HE BELIEVED THE SOVIETS
WOULD PRESS HIM NOT TO RETAIN SHEVCHENKO IN THE
SECRETARIAT, AND WERE HE TO DO SO CONTRARY TO THEIR WIS
THEY COULD CLAIM NOT TO BE REPRESENTED ON THE SECRETAR
IAT AT AN APPROPRIATELY HIGH LEVEL.

5. IT IS CLEAR, SYG SAID, THAT SHEVCHENKO WANTS TO
GIVE UP HIS POSITION IN THE SOVIET SERVICE AND, IN
EFFECT, WANTS TO DEFECT. THE ONLY WAY TO AVOID DIFFI-
CULTY WOULD BE IF SHEVCHENKO RESIGNED HIS UN POST AND
SOUGHT ASYLUM.

6. WALDHEIM SAID THAT, HAVING CONVEYED TO U.S. THE
SOVIET REQUEST FOR SHEVCHENKO'S WHEREABOUTS, HE WOULD
LEAVE IT TO U.S. WHETHER AND HOW TO REPLY.

7. AS BACKGROUND TO SHEVCHENKO'S DECISION, SYG RECALLED
THAT HE LATELY HAD BEEN ABSENT FREQUENTLY FROM HIS
OFFICE, OSTENSIBLY BECAUSE OF ILLNESS. ALSO, SHEVCHENKO
HAD ASKED TO EXTEND HIS APPOINTMENT FOR TWO YEARS, THOUGH
SYG SAID THAT SHEVCHENKO HAD SAID AT THE TIME THAT HE
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PLANNED TO STAY ONLY A YEAR, UNTIL AFTER THE NEXT UNGA.
THE EXTENSION HAD BEEN APPROVED BY THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR.

8. ON HIS OWN PLANS, WALDHEIM SAID HE WOULD BE IN LONDON
UNTIL THE MORNING OF APRIL 10, WHEN HE GOES TO DUBLIN.
HE RETURNS TO LONDON APRIL 12, ENROUTE TO VIENNA, WHERE
HE WILL REMAIN UNTIL ABOUT APRIL 16 OR 17.

BREWSTER

SECRET

NNN

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